

Moving Forward on Development Issues

U.S. Proposals for Compromise

The U.S. offers the following proposals in order to move forward on three key outstanding issues in the development section.

Millennium Development Goals

The U.S. is ready to accept the use of the phrase Millennium Development Goals throughout the text, provided that it can be appropriately defined. We therefore propose that the following language, based on paragraph 17 of the current draft, be used as the opening paragraph of the development section:

“We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives that emerged from the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication.

Official Development Assistance

The U.S. has almost doubled its Official Development Assistance (ODA) since adoption of the Millennium Declaration, but we have made clear that we do not accept the ODA target of 0.7 percent of donor GNP. We understand that many other countries do accept the target and believe it is important to refer to it in the document. We are prepared to accommodate this desire and propose the following language to replace the first three subparagraphs of paragraph 23:

“A substantial increase in official development assistance, in addition to other resources, is required in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as we agreed at Monterrey in 2002. We welcome the substantial increases in ODA since the Millennium Summit and recent commitments to further substantial increases, particularly for countries that are making efforts to use resources wisely, strengthen governance and reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth. Recent actions in this regard include the increase in global ODA from all donors by nearly \$30 billion since 2001, the launching of major initiatives to combat AIDS, Malaria, and promote good governance, investments in people, and economic freedom, commitment by the G-8 to increases that will more than double aid to Africa from 2004 to 2010, and the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the various targets to which they are committed, including of 0.7 percent of GNP for ODA by no later than 2015, at least 0.50 percent by 2010, and 0.15 percent to 0.20 percent of GNI for ODA to Least Developed Countries. On the basis of donor commitments and other relevant factors, the OECD estimates that ODA from the G8 and other donors to all developing countries will now increase by around \$50 billion a year by 2010 as compared to 2004. Fulfilling commitments to increase ODA is needed in order to consolidate and build on recent progress, to stimulate the growth that will increase other resources and to enable countries over time to reduce their aid dependency.”

Kyoto Protocol

One particularly difficult issue in the section of the outcome document on climate change has been whether and how to refer to the Kyoto Protocol. The U.S. understands that many countries are committed to the Kyoto Protocol and desire to have that commitment reflected in the document. We thus propose the following formulation to address this issue.

“We emphasize the need to meet all the commitments and obligations we have undertaken in the UNFCCC and other relevant international agreements, including, for many of us, the Kyoto Protocol.”